NUMB. I.

The GUARDIAN.

——Ille quem requiris. Mart.

To be Continued Every Day

Thursday, March 12. 1713.

THERE is no Paſſion ſo univerſal, however diverſified or diſguiſed under different Forms and Appearances, as the Vanity of being known to the reſt of Mankind, and communicating a Man's Parts, Virtues or Qualifications to the World; this is ſo ſtrong upon Men of great Genius, that they have a reſtleſs Fondneſs for ſatisfying the World in the Miſtakes they might poſſibly be under, with relation even to their Phyſiognomy. Mr. *Airs*, that excellent Penman, has taken care to affix his own Image oppoſite to the Title Page of his Learned Treatiſe, wherein he inſtructs the Youth of this Nation to arrive at a flouriſhing Hand. The Author of *the Key to Intereſt, both Simple and Compound, containing Practical Rules plainly expreſſed in Words at length for all Rates of Intereſt, and Times of Payment, for what time ſoever*, makes up to us the Misfortune of his living at *Cheſter*, by following the Example of the above-mentioned *Airs*, and coming up to Town, over-againſt his Title Page in a very becoming Periwig, and a flowing Robe or Mantle, incloſed in a Circle of Foliages; below his Portraiture, for our farther Satisfaction, as to the Age of that uſeful Writer, is ſubſcribed *Johannes Ward de Civitat. Ceſtriæ, Ætat. ſuæ* 58. *An. Dom.* 1706. The ſerene Aſpect of theſe Writers, join'd with the great Encouragement I obſerve is given to another, or, what is indeed to be ſuſpected, in which he indulges himſelf, confirmed me in the Notion I have of the prevalence of Ambition this way. The Author whom I hint at ſhall be nameleſs, but his Countenance is communicated to the Publick in ſeveral Views and Aſpects drawn by the moſt eminent Painters, and forwarded by Engravers, Artiſts by way of Meſſotinto, Etchers, and the like. There was, I remember, ſome Years ago one *John Gale*, a Fellow that play'd upon a Pipe, and diverted the Multitude by Dancing in a Ring they made about him, whoſe Face became generally known, and the Artiſts employ'd their Skill in delineating his Features, becauſe every Man was judge of the Similitude of them. There is little elſe than what this *John Gale* arriv'd at in the Advantages Men enjoy from common Fame, yet do I fear it has always a Part in moving us to exert our ſelves in ſuch things, as ought to derive their beginnings from nobler Conſiderations: But I think it is no great matter to the Publick what is the Incentive which makes Men beſtow time in their Service, provided there be any thing uſeful in what they produce; I ſhall proceed therefore to give an Account of my intended Labours, not without ſome hope of having my Vanity, at the end of them, indulged in the Sort abovementioned.

I ſhould not have aſſumed the Title of *Guardian*, had I not maturely conſidered, that the Qualities neceſſary for doing the Duties of that Character, proceed from the Integrity of the Mind more than the Exceſſence of the Underſtanding: The former of theſe Qualifications it is in the Power of every Man to arrive at; and the more he endeavours that Way, the leſs will he want the Advantages of the latter; to be Faithful, to be Honeſt, to be Juſt, is what you will demand in the Choice of your Guardian; or if you find added to this, that he is Pleaſant, Ingenious, and Agreeable, there will overflow Satisfactions which make for the Ornament, if not ſo immediately to the Uſe of your Life. As to the Diverting Part of this Paper, by what Aſſiſtance I ſhall be capacitated for that, as well as what Proofs I have given of my Behaviour as to Integrity in former Life, will appear from my Hiſtory to be delivered in enſuing Diſcourſes. The main Purpoſe of the Work ſhall be to protect the Modeſt, the Induſtrious, to celebrate the Wiſe, the Valiant, to encourage the Good, the Pious, to confront the Impudent, the Idle, to contemn the Vain, the Cowardly, and to diſappoint the Wicked and Profhane. This Work cannot be carried on but by preſerving a ſtrict Regard, not only to the Duties but Civilities of Life, with the utmoſt Impartiality towards Things and Perſons. The unjuſt Application of the Advan-

(Price Two Pence.)

Advantages of Breeding and Fortune is the Source of all Calamity both Publick and Private; the Correction therefore, or rather Admonition, of a Guardian, in all the Occurrences of a various Being, if given with a benevolent Spirit, would certainly be of General Service.

In order to contribute as far as I am able to it, I shall publish in respective Papers whatever I think may conduce to the Advancement of the Conversation of Gentlemen, the Improvement of Ladies, the Wealth of Traders, and the Encouragement of Artificers. The Circumstance relating to those who excel in Mechanicks, shall be consider'd with particular Application. It is not to be immediately conceived by such as have not turned themselves to Reflections of that Kind, that Providence, to enforce and endear the Necessity of Social Life, has given one Man Hands to another Man's Head, and the Carpenter, the Smith, the Joiner are as immediately necessary to the Mathematician, as my Amanuensis will be to me, to Write much fairer than I can my self. I am so well convinced of this Truth, that I shall have a particular regard to Mechanicks, and to show my Honour for them, I shall place at their head the Painter. This Gentleman is as to the Execution of his Work a Mechanick, but as to his Conception, his Spirit and Design, he is hardly below even the Poet, in Liberal Art. It will be from these Considerations useful to make the World see the Affinity between all Works which are beneficial to Mankind is much nearer, than the illiberal Arrogance of Scholars will, at all times allow. But I am from Experience convinced of the Importance of Mechanick Heads, and shall therefore take them all into my Care, from *Rowley*, who is improving the Globes of the Earth and Heavens in *Fleetstreet*, to *Bat Pidgeon* the Hair Cutter in the *Strand*.

But it will be objected upon what Pretensions I take upon me to put in for the *prochain amy*, or nearest Friend of all the World. How my Head is accomplished for this Employment towards the Publick, from the long Exercise of it in a private Capacity, will appear by reading me the two or three next Days with Diligence and Attention. There is no other Paper in Being which tends to this Purpose. They are most of them Histories or Advices of Publick Transactions; but as those Representations affect the Passions of my Readers, I shall sometimes take Care, the Day after a Foreign Mail, to give them an Account of what it has brought. The Parties among us are too violent to make it possible to pass them by without Observation. As to these Matters, I shall be impartial, tho' I cannot be Neuter. I am, with Relation to the Goverment of the Church, a Tory, with Regard to the State, a Whig.

The Charge of Intelligence, the Pain in compiling and digesting my Thoughts in proper Stle, and the like, oblige me to value my Paper an Half-penny above all other Half-Sheets. And all Persons, who have any thing to communicate to me, are desired to direct their Letters (Postage paid) to *Nestor Ironside*, Esq; at Mr. *Tonson*'s in the *Strand*. I declare before hand, that I will at no Time be conversed with any other ways than by Letter; for as I am an Antient Man, I shall find enough to do to give Orders proper for their Service, to whom I am by Will of their Parents Guardian, tho' I take that to be too narrow a Scene for me to pass my whole Life in. But I have got my Wards so well off my Hands, and they are so able to act for themselves, that I have little to do but give an Hint, and all that I desire to be amended is altered accordingly.

My Design upon the whole is no less, than to make the Pulpit, the Bar, and the Stage, all act in Concert in the Care of Piety, Justice and Virtue. For I am past all the Regards of this Life, and have nothing to manage with any Person or Party, but to deliver my self as becomes an Old Man with one Foot in the Grave, and one who thinks he is passing to Eternity. All Sorrows which can arrive at me are comprehended in the Sense of Guilt and Pain; If I can keep clear of these two Evils, I shall not be apprehensive of any other. Ambition, Lust, Envy, and Revenge, are Excrescencies of the Mind which I have cut off long ago: But as they are Excrescencies which do not only deform, but also torment those on whom they grow, I shall do all I can to persuade all others to take the same Measures for their Cure which I have.

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